

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy comprising:

a) a removable flat bed with an attached rear panel and a subframe which allows the flat bed to be attached to the chassis of a mortar buggy, said flat bed having a plurality of horizontal stakeholders which can receive tubular stake members;

b) left and right side panels each having at least two tubular stake members attached to said panels which extend beyond one edge of each said panels for selective insertion into said vertical stakeholders to form a hopper or into said horizontal stakeholders to form an extended flat bed;

c) a front tailgate attachable to a front edge of said side panels and subframe of the flat bed when said side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders; and

d) a pair of left and right swing-out arms hingedly attached to the subframe of the flat bed to support said left and right side panels when said tubular stake members are inserted into said horizontal stakeholders to form said extended flat bed.

Serial No.: 10/767,220
Atty. Docket No.: P69450US0

2. (Original) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is attached such that it can be hinged to swing away from the side panels at its top or bottom.

3. (Original) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said left and right panels are solid metal panels with said tubular stake members attached thereto.

4. (Original) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said left and right panels have a securing hole and said swing-out arms have a securing hole to secure each swing-out arm in position underneath its respective panel.

5. (Original) The stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy of claim 1 wherein said front tailgate is made of a solid metal panel with reinforcing tubing attached thereto for strength and rigidity.

6. (Original) The stake bed assembly of claim 1 where tailgate is attached to the side panels and subframe of the flat bed at all four corners by hinge pins.

7. (Original) The stake bed assembly of claim 1 wherein the side panels, back wall and front tailgate, fit snugly together

Serial No.: 10/767,220
Atty. Docket No.: P69450US0

to form a solid wall hopper capable of carrying loose or granular materials.

8. (Original) The stake bed assembly of claim 1 wherein said components of the assembly are made of steel, polymer, or a composite material having reinforcing fiber.

9. (Original) The stake bed assembly of claim 1 wherein said swing-out arms can be secured against sides of said subframe in a generally parallel orientation.

10. (Original) A stake bed assembly for a mortar buggy comprising:

a) a removable flat bed with an attached rear panel and a subframe which allows the flat bed to be attached to a mortar buggy or similar vehicle, said flat bed having a plurality of horizontal and vertical stakeholders located on the subframe which can receive tubular members or stakes;

b) left and right side panels having longitudinal and transverse sides, at least two tubular supports or stakes attached to said panels which are oriented perpendicular to longitudinal sides of the panels and extend away from the panels on one side, and a securing component, said front and side panels fitting snugly

Serial No.: 10/767,220
Atty. Docket No.: P69450US0

together so that the system is capable of carrying loose or granular loads;

c) a front panel attachable to the side panels and subframe of the flat bed when both side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders of the subframe in a vertical orientation such that the front panel can be hinged to swing away from the side panels and subframe either from the top or the bottom;

d) a front panel which can be attached to the subframe of the flat bed when both side panels are set in a horizontal orientation, said front panel can be attached to the subframe of the flat bed when the side panels are removed;

e) said front panel being made of solid steel or other alloy and having stakes that are welded to it to provide strength and rigidity, and wherein said front panel is attached to the side panels and the subframe of the flat bed at all four corners through the use of a hinge pin system; and

f) a pair of swing-out arms hingedly attached on left and rights sides of the subframe of the flat bed, said swing-out arms securable against the subframe in a parallel orientation to the subframe and positionable at a right angles to the subframe, with a securing component to engage with the respective securing component of each side panel.

Serial No.: 10/767,220
Atty. Docket No.: P69450US0

11. (Original) The stake bed assembly of claim 10 wherein said components of the assembly are made of steel, polymer or other composite material having carbon fiber.

12. (Original) A mortar buggy comprising the stake bed assembly of claim 1.

13. (Original) A mortar buggy comprising the stake bed assembly of claim 10.

14. (Withdrawn) A mortar buggy with a stake bed conversion assembly which comprises

a wheeled chassis;

an engine and controls for driving and steering said chassis;

a plastic hopper rigidly affixed to a base plate which is pivotally mounted to a forward end of said chassis;

a power driven cylinder to raise and lower a rear portion of said plastic hopper and base plate between a transport position and a dumping position;

a removable stake bed assembly for pivoted attachment to said chassis and power cylinder and replacement of said plastic hopper and base plate, said stake bed assembly having a flat bed, a rear panel and removable side walls, said side walls each having

Serial No.: 10/767,220
Atty. Docket No.: P69450US0

at least two tubular stakes which extend beyond one edge of each said side walls to form tubular stake projections; and

said tubular stake projections selectively inserted into vertical stakeholders in said flat bed to form a hopper or into horizontal stakeholders on said flat bed to form an extended flat bed.

15. (Withdrawn) The mortar buggy of claim 15, further comprising a front tailgate which is attachable to a front edge of said flat bed and to front edges of said side panels when said side panels are set into the vertical stakeholders.

16. (Withdrawn) The mortar buggy of claim 15, further comprising swing-out arms hingedly attached to said flat bed which cooperate with said removable side walls to support said side walls when the tubular stake projections of said side walls are inserted into said horizontal stakeholders.

17. (Withdrawn) The mortar buggy of claim 16 wherein said front tailgate is hinged to swing away from said side walls from either its top or bottom.

18. (Withdrawn) The mortar buggy of claim 17 wherein said side walls have a securing component and said swing-out arms

Serial No.: 10/767,220
Atty. Docket No.: P69450US0

have a cooperating securing component to secure each swing-out arm in position underneath its respective side wall.

19. (Withdrawn) The mortar buggy of claim 15, further comprising projections on a back edge of said removable side walls which cooperate with generally vertical slots in said rear panel to secure said side walls to said rear panel when said stake projections are received in said vertical stakeholders.

20. (Withdrawn) The mortar buggy of claim 15, wherein said tailgate when folded down generally planar to said flat bed expands said extended flat bed when said side panel tubular stake projections are inserted in said horizontal stakeholders.

21. (New) A load bed conversion assembly which comprises
a wheeled chassis;
an engine and controls for driving and steering said chassis;

a load bed assembly for attachment to said chassis, said load bed assembly including a flat load bed of generally rectangular configuration and extending forwardly in relation to said chassis, a rear panel having a width generally equal to a width of said flat load bed and extending rigidly upwardly from a rear edge of said flat load bed to enable load items placed on the

Serial No.: 10/767,220
Atty. Docket No.: P69450US0

flat load bed to extend beyond the side edges of said flat load bed during transport.

22. (New) A load bed assembly as claimed in claim 21, further comprising left and right vertical side panels detachably connected to the side edges of said flat load bed and to the side edges of said rear panel.

23. (New) The load bed assembly as claimed in claim 22 wherein said flat load bed includes a plurality of spaced horizontal and vertical stakeholders along each side edge thereof, each left and right side panel having stake members attached to said panels which extend beyond a longitudinal edge of said panel for selective insertion into said vertical stakeholders to form a hopper and into said horizontal stakeholders to extend outwardly from the side edges of the flat load bed to form a horizontally extended flat bed.